

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 /107 W

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R 272141Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7436

UNCLAS CARACAS 1035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOL VE

SUBJECT: OIL WILL NOT BE USED AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT,
STATE OFFICIAL SOURCES

REF: A) CARACAS 819 B) CARACAS 544 C) CARACAS 332
D) CARACAS 239

1. FOR FIFTH TIME IN 1975 VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
HAVE REITERATED THAT OIL HAS NEVER BEEN USED AS A POLITICAL
INSTRUMENT, AND THAT THIS COUNTRY GUARANTEES TO SUPPLY ITS
NATURAL MARKETS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO
BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CUSTOMER.

2. USING A FAVORITE DEVICE OF FRONT PAGE REPORT ATTRIBUTED
TO TECHNICAL LEVEL AND OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM AUTHORITIES,
CARACAS EL NACIONAL ON JANUARY 26 STATED REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
FORD (TO EFFECT THAT VENEZUELA MIGHT JOIN IN FUTURE OIL
BOYCOTT) FAIL TO TAKE NOTE OF TWO FACTS--1) VENEZUELA
NEVER HAS USED OIL AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT AND HAS REITERATED
TO ALL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS THAT IT GUARANTEES TO SUPPLY
ITS NATURAL MARKETS. ON JANUARY 20, MINES MINISTER VALENTIN
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HERNANDEZ GAVE PUBLIC ASSURANCE (REF A) THAT VENEZUELA

WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY CANADA, ITS SECOND MARKET, AND OF COURSE THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERED THE MAIN (NATURAL) MARKET. 2) OPEC NEVER HAS AGREED TO POLICY OF USING OIL AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT THE CARTEL HAS CONFINED ITSELF TO PRICING AND PRODUCTION POLICIES. THE ARAB MEMBERS OF OPEC WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE OIL BOYCOTT, ACCORDING TO SOURCES QUOTED, DID NOT SUGGEST THAT VENEZUELA, IRAN NIGERIA OR ECUADOR PARTICIPATE IN THE BOYCOTT.

3. ARTICLE STATES PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE OIL BOYCOTT HAS SO MANY IMPLICATIONS THAT MATTER IS NO LONGER STRICTLY A PETROLEUM QUESTION AND THEREFORE MUST BE HANDLED AT LEVEL OF VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. OFFICIAL CARACAS WAS REPORTED TO BE AWAITING MORE PRECISE INFORMATION FROM VENEZUELAN EMBASSY REGARDING FORD COMMENTS.

4. REF CABLES ARE FOUR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BEGINNING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ' NEW YEAR'S SPEECH REAFFIRMING VENEZUELAN POLICY OF NOT USING OIL AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN REPEATED SO OFTEN THAT GOV MAY BE NERVOUSLY WONDERING IF ANYONE IS LISTENING.
MILLS

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